

NOV., 1908

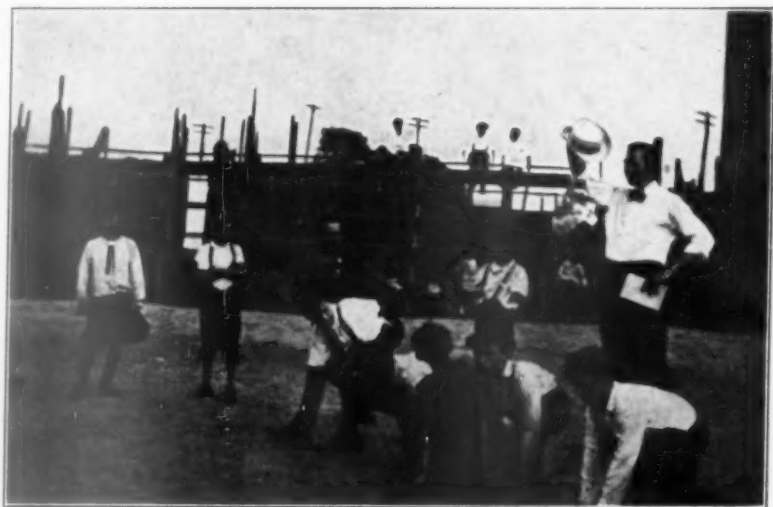


NUMBER 20

The Playground

A MONTHLY JOURNAL

PUBLISHED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

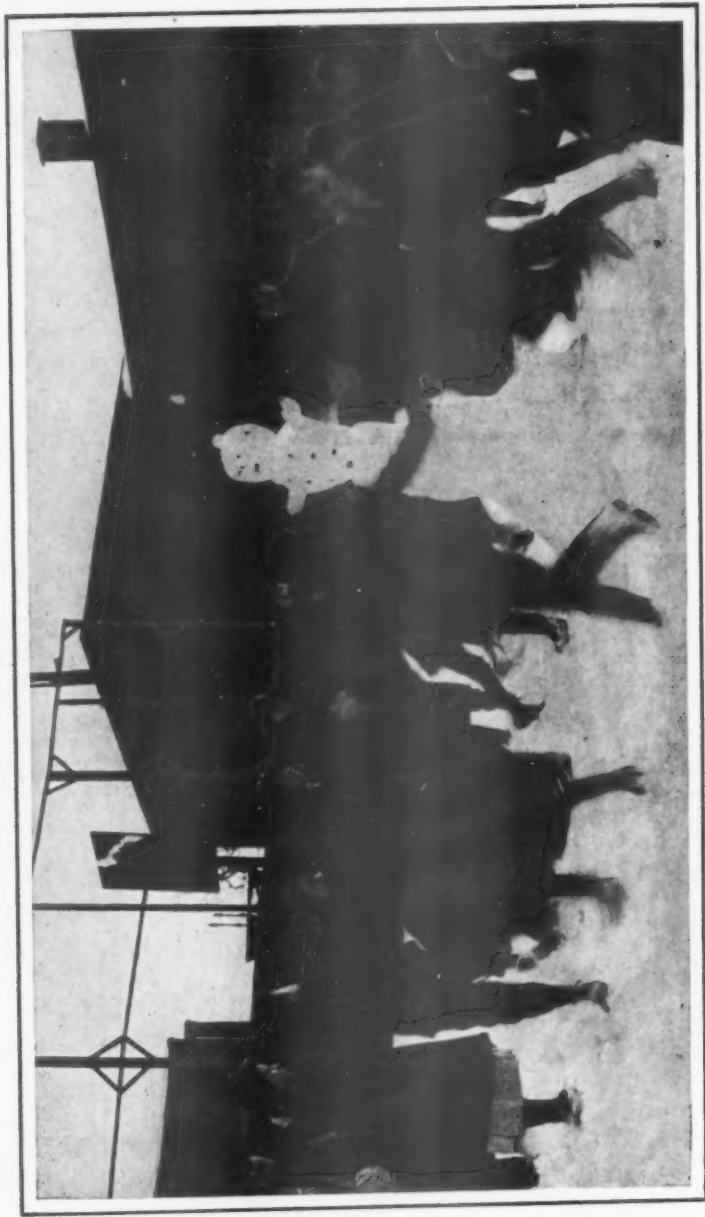


LEARNING TO START

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SHOWING HOW CHILDREN CAN ENJOY THE PLAYGROUNDS IN WINTER, NEWARK, N. J., FEBRUARY, 1908

The Playground

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NEW YORK CITY.

THE summer season of the Parks and Playgrounds Association in New York City has proven once more the proposition that personality is the essential element of the playground. While this proposition is a general one and has met with general acceptance, nevertheless each community must test its truth by experience, either through the lack of desired results without such supervision, or through the satisfaction that comes with it. The number of clubs which were formed, the enthusiasm shown in co-operative efforts for the common welfare, the permanence of mutual interest between worker and children lasting over into fall and winter activities, all are returns from an investment in personality.

The baseball league, which served to organize the boys in various sections of the city, proved to be a valuable contribution to city boy life in the summer. Without such a league, the majority of the 1,000 interested in it would not have been playing ball, or if so, doing it for money stakes rather than for sport.

The camp, conducted on a small scale as an experiment to test its utility as a playground adjunct, proved its value as

well. Not only does it serve to give a healthful outing to those who would otherwise not have one, but by the stimulus to save money to meet the expense of the trip, and the additional bond established thereby between the boys, contributes a substantial moral element of permanent value.

The placing of club leaders in various sections of the city, the extension of league work, the encouragement of the national dances, are all developments, not directly in the line of playground work, but ramifications which serve to give it a real foundation in the life of the community.

A "Council of 100" composed of leading citizens has been formed, with Miss Pauline Robinson as secretary, which will work in co-operation with the Parks and Playgrounds Association, holding its first meeting in December.

On Monday, October 26th, a meeting was held at the Rectory of the Cathedral upon the invitation of Mgr. Lavelle, when the work of the summer and plans for the future were discussed, and action taken towards stimulating the interest in the playground movement in New York City.

HOWARD BRADSTREET, Sec'y.

QUIET DAYS IN A PLAYGROUND—



UNITY PLAYGROUND, MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

QUIET DAYS IN A PLAYGROUND. Unity House, Minneapolis, Minn.

BY MARY KATHARINE REELY.

GIVEN an ordinary amount of apparatus to swing and climb on, enough open space for a lively game, a sand box or two, and the average child will enjoy himself in a playground. But, after one summer's experience, a playground director will know that there are days when swings and teeters out in the hot sun lose their attractiveness, and when prisoner's base and indoor ball don't go. There remains the sand box with its various possibilities, but, if the hot days continue too long the director will find her ingenuity taxed to the utmost.

Our small settlement playground is fortunate in possessing six oak trees big enough to cast a shadow. It was under these that the hot days of July and August of this summer were spent. The problem was to find games and amusements which did not call for too much energy. Books of playground games proved of little assistance for

they deal almost wholly with active games.

We played "Poor pussy," "Beast, bird, or fish," and another, resurrected from childhood memories, known as "Have you seen my bird to-day?" This question, after being propounded to each child in turn, is followed by, "What color was it?" and when the right color is guessed, the guesser receives a thimbleful of water in the face. Even a thimbleful is gratefully received in hot weather. This game proved immensely popular, but, for the most part, we found few games which could be called hot weather favorites.

The story hour, always an important playground feature, is of double importance during these dull days. "Tell us a story"—"Tell it again"—"Tell us another," are constant demands. Our playground was reserved for younger children—children under twelve. They were at just the right story age or at what might be termed the age of myth and legend. All those tales which had their birth during the childhood of the world held the same charm for these

—QUIET DAYS IN A PLAYGROUND

children of to-day that they held for those simple, older children of long ago. The stories of the Heroes, of Asgard, of Ulysses, of Robin Hood, of King Arthur and his knights—these are the best stories for playground use. They have the true out-of-door flavor, and to be appreciated to the full, must be listened to under an oak tree.

Together with his love of stories every child possesses something of the dramatic instinct. The games he plays are of the dramatic type, and for a time these satisfy him. But there comes a period a little later, perhaps at the age of ten or twelve, when the desire to "act" possesses him.



THE STORY HOUR.

This histrionic passion seized our playground in August. It ran its course for weeks. Nothing would take its place. We had a large tent on the grounds for a shelter, and the playground benches, placed together at one end of this, formed the stage—the extra benches being left for seats. A medicine show which had held forth for a time in a vacant lot near by, furnished further inspiration. Many of the "acts" from the show were accurately reproduced, supplemented with others copied

from cheap vaudeville. These performances, while highly amusing to the on-looker, were hardly to be commended. An antidote was found in dramatizations of some of the stories which had proved most popular. The scene at Circe's palace was given with great earnestness, the actors taking the part of the men turned into swine being especially effective.

The children did most of their own dramatizing, usually "making up" as they went along. They were doing the story of the three little pigs who built three houses—of straw, of mud, and of brick. The wolf had come to the last house. He had huffed—he had puffed, but the house had not fallen in. He stood in deep meditation, and then, with sudden emphasis, brought out, "By George, I've got to get that pig some way."

This dramatic instinct is apt to break out in unexpected places. We owned a croquet set, which was carried across the street to the house every evening. Two boys had been delegated to carry it over one evening, and the amazed director reached the gate just in time to see a procession crossing the street. The box was heaped with grass and weeds. There were bearers at the head and feet, and the followers sang something that did duty as a funeral dirge.

With the coming of the first touch of autumn in the air, the old active games began to assert themselves. But the transition in our playground was gradual. The dramatic instinct still held sway. But, instead of doing acts on a stage, we played Indian. The rag weeds along the fence had been allowed to grow, and they furnished a most acceptable forest.

When the playground closed in September there were active signs of foot ball, and even hints of shinny. The days of make-believe were over.

PLAYGROUNDS IN LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY—




PLAYING INDIAN.

The spring and early summer have their established games. So has the autumn. There remain the dull days. They must be taken account of in planning a season in a playground.

PLAYGROUNDS IN LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY.

By W. F. BRADBURY, SUPERVISOR OF PUBLIC PLAYGROUNDS.

 OUR city of Louisville, Ky., is often called the Gateway to the South, so that it makes a very good place to begin with in a discussion of Southern effort of all kinds.

The playground idea got a good grip on a few of Louisville's public spirited citizens almost a decade ago, but it was not till 1902 that anything resembling an organization was formed. In that year the Recreation League began to solicit private subscriptions for playground work, and obtained the school board's permission to use three or four school yards for play centers. A supervisor and two or three instructors were employed, and the school yards were kept open all through the summer vacation.

The Board of Education, however, later withdrew its permission to use the school yards, and the Board of Park Commissioners was asked to equip some of the interior squares of the city as

public playgrounds. This the Board did, also paying the salaries of the several instructors.

By 1904 the Board had agreed to pay the supervisor's salary also, and the system comprised five play centers. At present there are seven playgrounds for white children and two for colored, with a corps of fifteen instructors. Six of these are young women.

The most thoroughly equipped playground of the system is Central Park, situated in the heart of the residential district, and covering one city block. Aside from its natural beauties, which are great, it has two open air gymnasiums, one for girls, and one for boys. For each of these there is a trained gymnastic instructor, who carries on regular classes. In connection with these there is a handsome shelter house and locker building combined, containing showers and a swimming pool. In the playground are sand boxes, circle swings, see-saws, and a big wading pool. A number of tennis courts and a running track complete the list of permanent equipment features. This playground, including the gymnasiums, entertains almost 5,000 children a week, or nearly half the total in the whole system. In the girls' open air gymnasium two night classes each week are conducted for department store and factory girls who cannot get out in the day time. Under the direction of Miss Olivia Henderson, a graduate of the Sargent School, and girls' gymnasium instructor at the park, these night classes have been a great success. Folk dancing, taught by the same instructor, is another feature of the playground work, which seems to appeal especially to the girls of 12 to 15 years of age.

The other playgrounds in our system, though not quite so elaborately equipped as Central, are yet well supplied with apparatus, with the exception of one or two but recently acquired by the city.

—NEWARK PLAYGROUNDS

In 1907 the total attendance for the season of ten weeks was, in round numbers, 100,000. All temporary supplies, such as base balls, soft balls, bean bags, ring toss games, quoits, basket balls, and the like are furnished by the Recreation League out of funds secured by private subscription. Expenses for these supplies were but \$400 last year, or \$4 for every 1,000 children. The Board of Park Commissioners appropriates \$1,500 a season. Efforts to get the Board to take over the entire expense of maintaining the playgrounds have so far proved fruitless. But the people of the city are beginning to realize what infinite good a few hundred dollars spent on playgrounds will do.

NEWARK PLAYGROUNDS.

BY WILLIAM J. MCKIERNAN.

*Secretary and Supervisor, Board of
Playground Commissioners.*

THE playground systems of Newark, N. J., are distributed under three heads, each independent of the other. There are the city playgrounds under the direction of a board of three commissioners, the school playgrounds controlled by the Board of Education, and the playgrounds within the parks under the management of the Essex Park Commission. The public school playgrounds are in operation about five hours a day, five days in the week, during five weeks of the summer vacation. The park playgrounds are kept going from June to the end of September. The playgrounds controlled by the Playground Commissioners are kept open all the days of the year.

The law under which the Newark Board of Playground Commissioners is operating was signed by the Governor May 7, 1907, and the first commission was appointed by Mayor Haussling on June 7, 1907. It is composed of William

J. McKiernan for three years, Louis V. Aronson for two years and George W. Jagle for one year. The State law authorizing cities to establish playgrounds was the result of the labors of a special commission of five appointed by the Mayor of Newark in 1906. The first municipal playground was opened on October 1, 1907, on a plot of ground in South Canal Street. It is in the heart of a congested tenement district. This plot of ground had been used as a dumping ground, and required some extensive filling in and grading.

One of the objects of the playground movement is to encourage a proper civic spirit, and this was inculcated among the young people of the playground from the very beginning, and it is due to the development of this civic spirit that it has been possible to accomplish so much with so little money. The people in general appear to be keenly appreciative of the benefits the playground is conferring upon the district, and the boys and young men have shown it in many ways. Through the co-operation of the latter the real filling in and grading of the ground was done. Loads upon loads of ashes were obtained from the shops in the vicinity and the boys and young men went to work with a will, day after day filling in the ground until it was put in good order. This voluntary work of the boys represents a saving of several hundred dollars to the city.

Before the grounds were cleared, winter weather had set in and the erection of ordinary gymnastic apparatus was not attempted. Only the simplest playground apparatus was put in for winter use. This included a small sand box, swings, a chute, teeters, small games and a shelter shed. This shed, more than one hundred feet long, was erected at the western end of the ground and under it a line of wooden settees and it afforded some protection for the little

NEWARK PLAYGROUNDS—

ones who persisted in attendance on the grounds even in the most inclement weather. A little one-story shelter house, sixteen by sixteen feet, was erected, containing toilets, a shower bath and two large closets. This tiny little building served as the recreation center of the neighborhood through the winter. At no time in the day was it without its quota of boys or youths. The single shower bath was crowded into the miniature house more by way of experiment and it has averaged thirty baths a day throughout the winter. Through the kindness of the Newark *Evening News*, a small collection of books was contributed and these were put in circulation. This experiment worked so well that an appeal was made to the Newark Free Public Library to establish a branch, which was done. Through the medium of this little library, the children and their elders are brought into contact with good literature and are made acquainted with the advantages of the big public library. In this connection, it may be mentioned that the first outing given to the children of the playground was a visit to the Free Public Library during the Christmas holidays. It was the first time for most of them to see the inside of that valued city possession. The little shelter house has been the scene of many activities, naturally cramped for space, but the activities were there just the same, and Police and Sanitary squads were formed among the boys and girls, and those who were members met in this shelter house to receive instructions and imbibe their first ideas of civic and social duties. The young men of the neighborhood organized an athletic club in this building and held their regular weekly meetings there. It was only possible for a dozen at most to find seats and the others were compelled to stand. Of late the membership of this club has grown so large that it is impossible for

the club to meet there any more. An appeal has been made to the Board of Education for permission to use rooms in the Commerce Street School for meeting purposes, and the secretary of the Commission feels assured that this permission will be granted.

It may also be mentioned in connection with this shelter house that it has also served the purpose of a public comfort station for the district, the first one to be opened in Newark. In its small way the little house has been of so much benefit that it is the most powerful argument that can be employed to demonstrate the need for a larger building to be used as a recreation center for the neighborhood.

Since the opening of the grounds there has not been a day, even when the weather was stormiest, that there were not many children present. The average attendance during the months of January and February from the Christmas holidays till the first of March, was 13,200. Of this number 7,440 were boys, 5,760 girls. The outdoor games played in the open air throughout the winter were basketball, bowling, medicine ball and the Italian national bowling game, variously known as balle or bocci. Checkers, lotto and dominoes were played in the shelter house, and when the weather permitted, under the shed in the open air. Cold weather does not keep children of the wretched tenements indoors and the playground has demonstrated that it is possible to provide pleasure for them even on the coldest days and stormiest weather. The work of last winter, if it has demonstrated nothing else, has shown that all playgrounds when properly managed could be in operation during the winter, to the advantage of the young people of the neighborhood in which they are located. The grounds have been in charge of a custodian and an assistant, who through the cheerful and willing co-operation of

—NEWARK PLAYGROUNDS

the people of the neighborhood have been able to maintain good order and proper discipline.

The neighborhood in which this ground is located has for years borne an unsavory reputation, but the secretary of the Commission who has come into daily contact with the people, feels that much of this evil repute is undeserved. He has found the people kindly disposed and very appreciative of small benefits conferred. There were two gangs of youth who were always in more or less trouble or making trouble, the notorious "Coffee House" and "Forty Strong" gangs, but since the establishment of the playground the gang spirit seems to have been broken. Sheriff Frank H. Sommer, who is thoroughly familiar as every one knows, with the evil phases of our municipal life, has declared that if nothing else was accomplished with the small sum of five thousand dollars appropriated for playgrounds, than the breaking up of these gangs, the city has been well repaid for its investment.

The system of play places has been in operation just one year. Owing to the meager appropriations given by the aldermen for the purpose, the Commissioners have not been enabled to open more than two playgrounds for the young people, but the secretary of the Commission on his own responsibility secured half a dozen vacant lots and fields during the summer months and put them to use as baseball fields for the working boys who wanted a place to indulge in the national game.

The outlook for the coming year is very bright because popular sentiment has been awakened to a considerable extent and the present president of the board, Mr. Louis V. Aronson, is an enthusiast on the subject and is determined to add at least half a dozen new play places and recreation centers in the com-

ing year. Since he assumed office he has started a recreation center alongside one of the playgrounds and this building is now rapidly approaching completion. It will contain shower baths, a reading room and branch of the Public Library, club rooms and an outdoor gymnasium.

The work of the Playground Commission has been unique in many respects. The playgrounds are operated along liberal lines with especial opportunities for working boys and working girls who are not given much attention after they cease to be school children. All that other playgrounds do for the smaller children is also done for them on the city playgrounds of Newark, but the older boys and girls are also looked after and special efforts are made to reach them.

Among the unique features of the city playgrounds is: The establishment of playground city governments. Officers are elected after the regular manner and these officials help materially in operating the grounds; stereopticon exhibitions and moving picture shows are given on the grounds on Sunday nights and attract great crowds of young and old. During the heated term shower baths with a garden hose were given the boys; open air classes were held for all kinds of handiwork; the young people were given half a dozen outings; a big field day meet was held in one of the amusement parks; an exhibition of the work done on the playgrounds was given in the Public Library; a milk station was established on one ground for the distribution of pure milk; first aid to the injured was established at the opening of the grounds and the fame of the work led to the bringing of injured persons from nearby shops when they met with accidents.

NEWARK PLAYGROUNDS—



FIRST ATHLETIC MEET ON CITY PLAYGROUNDS, NEWARK, N. J., MAY 1, 1908.

—PLAYGROUND LAW, NEW JERSEY

THE number of vacant places available for playgrounds in thickly populated parts of the city are growing scarcer all the time, while the temptations to vice are more numerous, and beset young people on all sides. Hundreds of boys have been arrested or haled before our police courts for playing baseball or other games on the streets. The stigma of arrest with all that that implies is frequently placed upon an unthinking boy, for no greater crime than that of playing on the street. This may seem a trifling matter to some, but when it is remembered that in after years some of these boys when they apply for positions with big corporations, or desire to become members of our Police or Fire Departments, must answer on a written blank, the question,

"WERE YOU EVER ARRESTED?"

the answer to be given usually calls for a simple yes or no and does not allow of any explanation. Thus a young man entering upon his life work may be debarred because of a trivial offense committed in boyhood. We owe it to our young people to provide them with proper recreation places and until we do so the police should be instructed to overlook or at least not arrest juveniles for trifling infractions of municipal ordinances. It has been demonstrated in every city where the playground system is in operation that playgrounds and recreation centers not only decrease the number of arrests, but add to the moral tone of the community.

It is the opinion of an expert who has been in touch with what has been accomplished in South Canal street that in the past five months there has been less use for the police in that district than has been the case in years, that there have been fewer arrests, that the several that were made were for trivial offences and it was only considered necessary to parole the offenders in the custody of the probation officer.

Attention has been called before to the fact that the playgrounds connected with the public schools are closed to the children most of the days of the year. This should not be. Public ground should be open to the public at all times. Grounds around the public schools are as much public property as Military Park or Branch Brook Park and should be practically unrestricted when classes are not in session. The new Board of Education has had its attention called to the subject and it is confidently expected that they will give it a more intelligent consideration than the body it superseded.

The Commissioner who acted as Supervisor promulgated a simple set of rules for the guidance, rather than the government of the young people. The chief rule, if such it may be called, is contained in the following paragraph:

Friends, this property is yours; you are expected to help in the care of the grounds, to assist in preserving order and to exercise the same rights you would give to others. Take good care of your own property.

PLAYGROUND LAW, NEW JERSEY.

An Act to provide for the establishment of public playgrounds in cities of this State and for the maintenance, control and management thereof.

Be it enacted by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey.

1. In any city of this State the Mayor of such city may, in his discretion, appoint three fit and suitable persons, citizens and residents of such city, who shall be confirmed by the common council or other governing body of such city, as commissioners of playgrounds, and who shall constitute and be known as the Board of Playground Commissioners of such city. The commissioners

PLAYGROUND LAW, NEW JERSEY—

first appointed under this act in any city shall hold office for the terms of one, two and three years respectively, as fixed and designated by the Mayor in their respective appointments and after the first appointments such commissioners shall be appointed for the full term of three years; vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term only. They shall not receive any salary or other compensation for their services.

2. It shall be the duty of such board, from time to time, to select in different parts and sections of the city for which they are appointed, lands for public playgrounds and recreation places for the children of such city, of such size and dimensions as they shall think suitable, regard being had to the population of the neighborhood, and to cause surveys and maps to be made thereof together with a careful estimate, as nearly accurate as may be, of the probable cost of acquiring said lands, if it is proposed to purchase or condemn the same and a statement of the annual rental and duration of term, if it is proposed to lease the same, together with an estimate of the cost of preparing and suitably equipping said lands for playgrounds and recreation places, which surveys, maps and estimates shall be submitted to the common council or other body of such city having control of the finances with a request that an appropriation be made for the purpose of acquiring or leasing said lands, and preparing and suitably equipping same. If the common council or other body of such city, by resolution, authorize the acquisition of the said lands and appropriate a sum for the purchase and equipment thereof, or authorize the leasing thereof and appropriate a sum for the equipment thereof the said board shall proceed to acquire said lands by purchase or condemnation, or lease the same, as the case may be, and suitably to prepare and equip the same for a playground and recreation ground for

children. If the land is condemned and the award exceeds the amount appropriated for its acquisition, the commissioners shall immediately submit the award to the common council or body having control of the finances and unless they approve the same, shall within twenty days from the filing of the report of the commissioners abandon the condemnation proceedings. In case of condemnation proceedings, either party thereto shall have the right of appeal from the award of the commissioners. The title to all lands so purchased or taken shall vest in the city and all leases of lands for the purposes of this act shall be in the name of the city.

3. The Board of Playground Commissioners shall have full control over all lands, playgrounds and recreation places for children acquired or leased under the provisions of this act, and the maintenance and custody thereof and the policing and preservation of order therein and may adopt suitable rules, regulations and by-laws for the use thereof, and the conduct of children and other persons while on and using the same and may enforce the same by suitable penalties. The custodians and assistants appointed by the board shall, while on duty and for the purpose of preserving order and the observance of the rules, regulations and by-laws of the board, have all the powers and authority of police officers of the respective cities in and for which they are severally appointed. The said board may appoint a secretary or clerk and such number of custodians and assistants for the several playgrounds and recreation places as they shall think necessary, but the salaries of all such officers, custodians and assistants shall be fixed and determined by the common council or other body having control of the finances of the city, by ordinance.

4. The common council or body having control of the finances of each city

—PLAYGROUND LAW, NEW JERSEY

having such playgrounds, shall annually fix, determine and appropriate a sum sufficient for the care, custody, policing and maintenance of such playgrounds and recreation places for children, and for the expenses of the several boards of commissioners, which sum shall be raised by taxation as other taxes are raised in such city. The common council or other body having control of the finances shall provide a suitable office or offices for said boards of commissioners of playgrounds.

5. The sum or sums of money necessary to pay for lands purchased or condemned for such playgrounds and recreation places for children may be raised and provided by the common council or body having control of the finances by general taxation, as other taxes are raised and levied, or by the issue of temporary loan bonds, or by the issue of permanent bonds of the particular city. If permanent bonds are issued, they shall be for not less than thirty nor more than fifty years, shall bear interest not exceeding four per centum per annum, and shall be sold at not less than their par values. If permanent bonds are issued, there shall be raised each year by general taxation by the city, issuing the same, as other taxes are raised and levied, a sum sufficient to pay the annual interest and also a sum for a sinking fund for such bonds, sufficient to meet, pay and retire the same at maturity. If temporary loan bonds are issued, they shall be so issued that at least one-fifth thereof shall be due and payable each year and there shall be raised each year by general taxation a sum sufficient to pay and retire the temporary loan bonds falling due that year.

This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved May 7, 1907.

Board of Playground Commissioners:
George W. Jagle, President, term expires June 7, 1908.

Louis V. Aronson, term expires June 7, 1909.

William J. McKiernan, Secretary, term expires June 7, 1910.

Philip A. Gifford, Clerk and Assistant Supervisor.

SHOULD A PLAYGROUND ALWAYS BE FENCED?

IN Detroit, Michigan, as I have heard, swings and apparatus are distributed very happily over a large area, in an extensive park. The crowd is not large, and is made still smaller by being scattered, so that both equipment and supervision take care of themselves. A fence is not necessary.

But when we come to congested conditions, the problem changes. It seems to me that the greater the congestion, the higher and stronger should be the fences, and the more intense and skilled the supervision, the two factors, congestion and fence, varying in exact proportion.

The first playground in Philadelphia was started down below South Street. This story was told me last winter by their Park Commissioner: "A private organization asked the city if they might have the use of a vacant space in this crowded neighborhood for a playground, saying that the neighbors and property holders were anxious for it, and that this organization would equip and manage the affair without aid from the city. The city replied, 'You may do this, and we are interested enough in the plan ourselves, to appropriate something toward it.' The chief mover of the plan was an enthusiast; he obtained considerable money and interest, the plot was covered with marble dust and a rather elaborate equipment installed. But the promoters and the city administration both thought that this being a public park, it should be open to everyone at all times, and there should consequently be no enclosure. The private

IMPRESSIONS OF AN AMATEUR—

organization put a man in charge for certain hours during the day and things went fairly well for a while, but as the place became known, crowds began coming at night; some of the apparatus was so elaborate it could not be taken down, the director could not be there all night, and gangs soon broke the more complicated equipment. They had gotten in the habit of coming and continued to do so after the grounds were officially closed. They were noisy, boisterous and obscene. The neighbors were kept awake at night and worried concerning their children. During the day the marble dust blew into their eyes and sifted into their rooms. Property depreciated. The private organization became hated and went out of business; the city was blamed and the park commissioners said that the whole playground movement in Philadelphia was put back for years, mainly because there was no fence around the ground with gates which could be locked at night, so that roughs could be kept out, property not destroyed and boisterousness and obscenity made difficult.

I have heard that in a few of the Washington, D. C., playgrounds which were unfenced, the darker portions of the unfenced grounds have been used as places of assignation, that whiskey bottles and refuse were scattered over them at night and that the sand courts were used for toilets during the late night hours, and this latter I know was done so much in one case in Philadelphia that the whole sand court was given up. In a recent number of the *Charities Magazine*, Jacob Riis speaks of similar things in New York. He says: "In a crowded city district, we believe that the temptations of the street are a bad thing for the boys. Playgrounds unfenced and poorly supervised simply make the bad things of the street more extensive." Hiram House, Cleveland, has been troubled by darkies

spooning and laughing boisterously all night this spring on their playground before the fence was repaired. A few nights ago a man was robbed in the St. Clair playground of Cleveland, Ohio.

As we of course know, the Chicago playgrounds are all fenced, and besides the things just spoken of, they claim two further advantages. A playground is apt to be a barren, homely, God-forsaken looking place. We can't plant grass because it will be trampled down and shrubs torn to pieces, but Chicago has fences not only around the outside of their grounds, but separating the different departments in the grounds; little children, from the larger boys, from the girls, etc. And next to all these fences are strips of grass and shrubs and trees. The fence is there so the children cannot get through and this gives no temptation to run over these strips of vines, shrubs and green, which really make the grounds artistic. For instance, some of the sections of the swimming pool are hidden entirely by shrubbery, which has grown up beside the enclosing fence. The fences have made it possible to have artistic playgrounds, even in intensely congested neighborhoods.

JOHN H. CHASE.

Cleveland, Ohio.

IMPRESSIONS OF AN AMATEUR GATHERED AT THE RECENT PLAYGROUND CONGRESS.

THE impressions gathered are mostly generalizations, and the first and most important was that:

Playgrounds are absolutely necessary, alike and equally from the physical, mental and moral standpoint of child development; in fact, they are a part of, and should in consequence be included in any sensible scheme of municipal government. Provision for their

—IMPRESSIONS OF AN AMATEUR

creation and maintenance should form a part of every city budget. They have an economic value quite as great as and just as distinct as their moral and humanitarian values, which latter are generally considered their chiefest values.

The second general impression is the fact that largeness of space is not necessarily a controlling factor in a successful playground. When one hears of a playground 40 feet square accommodating 1,000 children weekly, not to speak of other not quite so pronounced instances, one is convinced that nearly any space is worthy of conversion into a playground, irrespective of its size.

The third impression gathered was that a playground must be situated *IN* (not near) a congested district. Four blocks' distance is as good as no playground to those in the fourth block.

The fourth impression is the need of well trained and conspicuously moral supervisors. A playground without supervision would be like a tree with no sap. Playgrounds have been known to be absolutely deserted for lack of adequate supervision. Personality is a part of successful playgrounds. Women should have charge of the small chil-

dren, while men should supervise the play of the boys.


The fifth impression is the distinction made between a playground and an athletic field. They serve entirely different purposes and should not be confused. The play of children differs in kind from that of youths, and each should be provided for as its peculiar needs require. A playground bears somewhat a similar relation to an athletic field as the grammar school does to the high school: one graduates from the playground into the athletic field.

The sixth impression is that in an athletic field, running water, such as a brook or stream, and shade trees are invaluable adjuncts.

The seventh impression is the desirability of having a play festival every year, preferably on a national holiday or anniversary, at which national and folk dances and athletic contests would be held.

The festival given at Van Cortlandt Park as the closing session of the Congress gave the writer more genuine, thorough and satisfying pleasure than anything of a remotely or closely similar kind ever did.

R. G.




In the other gardens
And all up the vale
From the autumn bonfires
See the smoke trail!

Pleasant summer over
And all the summer flowers,
The red fire blazes,
The gray smoke towers.

Sing a song of seasons!
Something bright in all!
Flowers in the summer,
Fires in the fall!

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON.

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PLAYGROUND HAPPENINGS—

PLAYGROUND HAPPENINGS.

BY LEE F. HANMER, FIELD SECRETARY.

The School Board of Salem, Mass., has purchased several lots adjoining the Benton School for a big playground.

The Henry Phipps Playground, of the Oak Park High School, Chicago, Ill., has been secured and equipped by the Parents' Association. \$2,000 was raised for this purpose. The expense of maintenance will also be borne by the association.

The residents of the Corona School District, Denver, Colo., have united to raise funds for the purchase of several lots adjoining the school, to use as a public playground.

Alderman Chandler, of New Haven, Conn., has introduced a resolution calling for the purchase of the Meadow Lands near West River for a public playground site. The resolution is backed by a petition signed by about 250 prominent business men of the city. Two of these business men have offered to donate \$5,000 each, in case the city will make the necessary appropriation of \$30,000 for playgrounds.

That public playgrounds be established in and made a part of the proposed park extension plan for Springfield, O., is the demand made by the labor men of the city. They are taking a keen interest in the movement, which they believe will make for the physical and social welfare of their children.

A fall series of weekly field days are being carried on on the playground of Public School No. 14, Rochester, N. Y. The attendance on the various playgrounds has not fallen off with the approach of cold weather. This is taken

as an indication that playgrounds are needed in the fall and winter as well as in the summer.

A benefit performance by Cecil R. Fanning was given on October 19th, at the Great Southern Theatre, Columbus, O. The proceeds are to be used for the support of the vacation playgrounds, which are being conducted by the Young Ladies' Playground Association.

The Board of Aldermen, of Providence, R. I., on October 5th, adopted a resolution appropriating \$19,065.95 for the purchase of the Chapman estate, to be used as a park and playground.

On October 1st, the City Council of Dover, N. H., passed a resolution to appropriate \$5,000 for public playgrounds on the north and south sides of the river. The resolution was referred to the Finance Committee.

The South Bend, Ind., *Tribune* of September 21st, says: "South Bend ought to be interested in the Playground movement. It is not only in the larger cities of the country that children are forced to the streets for their play. It is to be hoped that the interest already taken here will grow, and that interest will beget enthusiasm."

Alderman Clancey, of Brockton, Mass., is chairman of a special committee to report on public playgrounds. The Committee is planning to visit cities that are already conducting playgrounds.

William A. Reid, supervisor of the Hancock and Prince school playgrounds in Boston, has introduced with great success a modified game of ten pins, which is played out of doors. He uses Indian clubs and a rubber ball.

—PLAYGROUND HAPPENINGS

Dr. Carl Ziegler, Director of Physical Training of Cincinnati schools, is president of the recently organized Public Schools Athletic League of that city. The League is a union of the high school and elementary school leagues and forms a part of the Interscholastic Association.

The City Council of Richmond, Va., has appointed a committee to report on the advisability of establishing playgrounds. On report of this committee, the Board of Aldermen and the Council concurred in a resolution providing for three public playgrounds. The chairman of the committee is E. R. Fuller. The Civic Improvement League has already raised a fund to be used toward the maintenance of playgrounds.

One of the resolutions adopted by the recent International Tuberculosis Congress in Washington, D. C., reads: "That this Congress endorses and recommends the establishment of playgrounds as an important means of preventing tuberculosis, through their influence upon health and resistance to disease."

At a recent meeting of the Board of Education of Rochester, N. Y., it was decided to keep open during the winter three public school playgrounds. These will be run under competent supervision.

The J. H. Goethe Real Estate Co., of Sacramento, Cal., which is developing a new section of the city, is planning to provide one or more public playgrounds. They are sending out inquiries for the purpose of getting suggestions on the most modern plans and equipment.

The new municipal recreation center of Los Angeles, Cal., has just been completed at a cost of about \$20,000. The formal opening took place on October 10th.

Chairman Chas. W. Brister, of the Auburn Playground Committee, Auburn, N. Y., in his annual report prophesied that in time public playgrounds would be state institutions, as are public schools. The expense of the Auburn playground for 1908 was: Equipment, \$445.49; salaries, \$358. The money was secured by private donations.

Charities and the Commons for September 26th has the following to say about the Minneapolis playgrounds: "The first playground was opened in Minneapolis in connection with the vacation schools in the summer of 1903, and since then the Park Board has made definite progress each year in adding grounds or enlarging and perfecting the play places already established. Only a year ago a single paid director was employed, but this year six assistant directors are at work. For equipment to date the amount spent is close to \$40,000, and the board has taken a broad stand as to the need of doing more along this line for the children of Minneapolis as a definite part of the program for civic betterment and social welfare to which the community as a whole is giving its ready assent. One of the fine pieces of work it intends doing in the near future is to convert the parade grounds in front of the new state armory and covering about sixty acres of land, into a great recreation park where all kinds of games can be played and on which there will be both an indoor and outdoor gymnasium with baths. At the present time baseball games are permitted on these grounds, provision being made for five diamonds. Attendance at each of the six parks has averaged this season about 800, while at the public bath, down on the Mississippi river, in connection with which there is a playground, the attendance has run up to 1,500 a day.

PLAYGROUND HAPPENINGS—

The West Somerville Board of Trade has unanimously adopted City Engineer Bailey's plan for a city athletic field, which is to be laid out on a ten acre section of the "City Farm." \$1,500 has already been appropriated for grading, etc. The field will provide for foot ball, base ball, running track, children's playground, gymnasium, tennis courts, wading pool, etc.

C. F. Hersey, of New Bedford, Mass., has suggested that the old cemetery on Griffin Street be made into a public playground.

The School Board of Minneapolis, Minn., is to ask for an appropriation of \$25,000 to be used for the establishment of playgrounds in connection with the schools.

The first municipal playground of Bangor, Me., has been a great success. The work was carried on both by funds appropriated by the city and by private subscriptions. The success was largely due to the employment of an experienced playground worker to take charge during the summer. The work will be extended to the more congested sections of the city next year.

A decided addition has been made to the park and playground sites of St. Louis, Mo., by the recent purchase of the old fair grounds.

The School Committee of Boulton, Mass., voted to ask the town at the coming town meeting for an appropriation of \$50 for the purchase of one-half acre adjoining the Southwestern School; this land to be used as a playground. Boulton is showing its wisdom in securing land for playgrounds while the price is low.

An editorial from the Utica, N. Y., *Press*, says: "Here in Utica the public playground plan has been experimented with and found to operate very successfully. The only trouble is that owing to lack of funds the enterprise has not been carried far enough. Sufficient has been done, however, to more than warrant the expenditure."

The children of Westerville, O., are to have a playground next summer. This is being brought about through the co-operation of the members of the Village Council, Board of Trade, Board of Health, Women's Clubs, and the Superintendent of Schools.

The American Gymnasium Company have issued "American Playgrounds: Their Construction, Equipment, Maintenance and Utility." Edited by Everett B. Mero. The book contains 330 pages and over 100 illustrations, including 30 full page plates, showing various forms of playground activities; many drawings of exercises, with and without apparatus, athletics, water sports, etc.; plans for playgrounds in connection with school buildings and separate. It is a compilation in book form of serviceable information concerning what has been and what should be done to provide suitable recreation and rational physical training by approved modern methods for the benefit of the people. The book is a manual for supervisors, instructors, committees and others desiring knowledge of how and what to do. A book for schools and libraries. It contains articles by Joseph Lee, E. B. DeGroot, Myron T. Scudder, Henry S. Curtis and others, and extracts and quotations from the writings of Dr. Luther Halsey Gulick, G. Stanley Hall, Robert W. DeForest and Jane Addams. The price is \$1.50, net.

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